

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 10 have been amended and new claims 11-15 have been added. No new matter has been added. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 8 recite a network service managing device which negotiates with another operations management network which is managed by another provider and which interconnection is to be established based on a required quality level from a customer so as to ensure an end-to-end quality level. The references previously cited do not disclose this feature. Claim 10 recites a broker function for brokering a service agreement between the operations management networks which are managed by the providers and which are to be interconnected based on regular quality level from a required quality level from a customer, wherein said service broker device is at a functional host layer of a network service management device. This feature is not present in any of the references previously cited by the Examiner.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Application No.: 09/818,955

Docket No.: X2850.0047

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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